

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A foot and ankle support, comprising:

a boot element having an upper part configured to contain a lower part of a user's leg and the user's ankle and a lower part configured to contain at least part of the user's foot,

the boot element providing a front opening and a pair of side flaps defining the opening,

primary fastening means operable to draw the side flaps together and each side flap having at least two apertures positioned to form two pairs of adjacent apertures when the side flaps are pulled together, and at least two first straps, each first strap able to engage with one side flap and be passed through a corresponding one of the two apertures in the other side flap and returned to the first side flap for engagement therewith, and

secondary fastening means to further secure the boot element.

2. (original) A foot and ankle support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the side flaps have inner and outer surfaces, the first strap and the inner and outer surfaces having part fastening means thereon to enable the strap to be secured to the inner surface of one side flap, passed through the aperture in that side flap, looped through the aperture in the other side flap and be secured on the outer surface of the first mentioned side flap.

3. (original) A foot and ankle support as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pair of apertures are provided on each side flap, one aperture being at or adjacent the upper part of the boot element and one aperture being at or adjacent the lower part of the boot element.

4. (original) A foot and ankle support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inner and outer surfaces of each side flap have the pile thereon of a pile and hook-fastening device, the hooks being provided on the strap.

5. (original) A foot and ankle support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secondary fastening means comprise two straps having a first end and a second free end, the first ends being affixed or affixable to the upper part of the boot element and each of said straps being affixed to extend forwardly and

down and having a length to pass across the top of the foot, under the metatarsal region of the foot and diagonally back up to be fastened to the boot element, part fastening means being provided on the boot element and the straps.

6. (previously presented) A foot and ankle support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first strap or straps can be positioned at a user-selected angle to the flap.

7. (previously presented) A foot and ankle support, comprising:

a boot element with an upper part and a lower part, and with a first side flap and a second side flap,

the upper part shaped to contain a lower part of a user's leg in use including at least the user's ankle, and the lower part shaped to contain at least part of a foot of the user in use,

the boot element, in use, defining a central opening intermediate the first and second side flaps;

a tongue bridging the central opening behind the first and second side flaps with edges of the tongue covered by the first and second side flaps;

a pair of openings in each of the first and second side flaps;

a first pair of straps threaded through respective ones of the openings to draw the first and second side flaps together; and

a second pair of straps affixed to an outer surface of the boot element, the second pair of straps positioned at a point at or adjacent the ankle when the user's foot is contained within the boot element.

8. (currently amended) The support of claim 7, wherein, the tongue is connected to the first and second side flaps,

the first pair of straps comprise part-fastening means over at least some of their faces to ~~fastened~~ fasten each strap to both inner and outer surfaces of the side flaps.

9. (currently amended) The support of claim 8, wherein, the faces of the first pair of straps are fastenable to both the inner and outer surfaces of the side flaps by the inner and outer surfaces of the side flaps cooperating parts of a hook and pile connector and the first pair of straps having ~~complimentary~~ complementary cooperating parts of the hook and pile connector.

10. (previously presented) The support of claim 8, wherein,

the first pair of straps are connected to the inner surface of the first side flap and are each passed through a respective one of the pair of openings in the first side flap and looped through one of the pair of openings in the second side flap from the inner surface of the second side flap to the outer surface of the second side flap, and returned and secured to the outer surface of the first side flap.

11. (currently amended) The support of claim 8 wherein, one of the first pair of straps is connected to the inner surface of the first side flap and is passed through a respective one of the pair of openings in the first side flap and looped through one of the pair of openings in the second side flap from the inner surface of the second side flap to the outer surface of the second side flap, and returned and secured to the outer surface of the first side flap, and

the other of the first pair of straps is connected to the inner surface of the second side flap.

12-17. (cancelled).

18. (previously presented) A foot and ankle support, comprising:

a boot element with an upper part and a lower part, and with a first side flap and a second side flap,

the upper part shaped to contain, in use, a lower part of a user's leg including at least the user's ankle, and the lower part shaped to contain, in use, at least part of a foot of the user,

the boot element, in use, defining a central opening intermediate the first and second side flaps;

a pair of openings in each of the first and second side flaps forming, in use, two pairs of adjacent strap openings;

a first pair of straps threaded through respective ones of the openings to draw the first and second side flaps together; and

a second pair of straps affixed to an outer surface of the boot element, the second pair of straps positioned at a point at or adjacent the ankle when the user's foot is contained within the boot element, wherein,

the boot element is free of lace-up elements.

19. (currently amended) The support of claim 18, further comprising:

a tongue bridging the central opening behind the first and second side flaps with edges of the tongue covered by the first and second side flaps[;].

20. (previously presented) The support of claim 17, the first and second pairs of straps allow the boot element to interchangeably fit both left and right feet.

21. (new) The foot and ankle support of claim 1, wherein, at least one of the two pairs of adjacent apertures is positioned to be adjacently above the user's foot, when the support is in use.

22. (new) The foot and ankle support of claim 7, wherein, the pair of openings in each of the first and second side flaps defines at least one pair of adjacent apertures positioned to be adjacently above the user's foot, when the support is in use.

23. (new) The support of claim 18, wherein, at least one of the two pairs of adjacent strap openings is positioned to be adjacently above the user's foot, when the support is in use.

24. (new) The foot and ankle support of claim 1, wherein, when the support is in use, an upper one of the two pairs of adjacent apertures is positioned to be at the user's leg and a lower one of the two pairs of adjacent apertures is positioned adjacent an upper surface of the user's foot.

25. (new) The foot and ankle support of claim 7, wherein, when the support is in use, the pair of openings in each of the first and second side flaps defines at least one pair of adjacent apertures positioned adjacent the user's leg and another pair of adjacent apertures positioned at an upper surface of the user's foot.

26. (new) The support of claim 18, wherein, when the support is in use, an upper one of the two pairs of adjacent strap openings is positioned to be at the user's leg and a lower one of the two pairs of adjacent strap openings is positioned adjacent an upper surface of the user's foot,

the first pair of straps threaded through respective ones of the upper strap openings to draw the first and second side flaps together at the user's leg; and

the second pair of straps drawing the outer surface of the boot element and the second pair of straps across the upper surface of the user's foot.